

December 6, 2002

Beth Bosch

ICC'S KRETSCHMER WON'T SEEK FIFTH TERM

Illinois Commerce Commissioner Ruth K. Kretschmer, who has served as a member of the Commission since 1983, announced today that she would not seek reappointment when her fourth five-year term expires in January.

Commissioner Kretschmer, the longest serving female utility regulator in the country, said it has been "a pleasure to be a part of such a dynamic era in regulation.

"During my time here the natural gas, electric, telecommunications and water industries have all undergone tremendous change," she said. "I understand the many challenges of leading change, as well as the critical environment in which we must do so. I am proud to have had an impact on the policies of this state."

As chairman of the Illinois Commerce Commission's Gas Policy committee for many years, Commissioner Kretschmer was instrumental in forging policies that led to the deregulation of natural gas in Illinois. She also served as chairman of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Committee on Gas and as a member of the NARUC Board of Directors.

Commissioner Kretschmer is a member of the MidAmerica Regulatory Conference and served as president of the organization in 1996. She was a member of the board of directors for the Center for Regulatory Studies at Illinois State University from 1985 through 1996. In 1989 she was appointed to the Advisory Council of the Gas Research Institute and chaired the council in 1995-96. She also served as a member of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Technical Pipeline Safety Standards Committee from 1991 to 1994.

Commissioner Kretschmer, working in conjunction with the United States Energy Association, helped to establish a regulatory partnership between the Illinois Commerce Commission and the Republic of Kazakhstan.

She also served as a member of the advisory council of the Center for Public Utilities, New Mexico State University and on the board of directors of the Gas Technology Institute.

Prior to joining the Commission, Kretschmer was a member of the DuPage County Board and the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission.

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